Food processing units in Karnataka

1708. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposals for setting up new food processing units and expansion of the existing ones in Karnataka are pending with the Central Government for approval; and

(b) if so, the details thereof in each case, and by when centre's approval for each is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) Under the Ministry's Scheme for Setting Up/ Technology Upgradation/Modernisation of Food Processing Industries out of 192 applications received from Karnataka, 46 applications were pending at various stages of processing. Consequent on decentralization of processing and disbursement of grant under the scheme through banks and financial institutions, all the eligible pending applications have been sent to the concerned banks from which the units have taken term loan, for sanction and disbursement of grant under the scheme. Necessary funds are being provided to the banks for disbursement of grant to these units expeditiously.

Food processing training centres in U.P.

1709. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of food processing training centers set up in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether any provisions have been made in these Centres for SCs, STs, OBCs and women entrepreneurs;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the number of entrepreneurs trained/given hands-on-experience in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) The Government does not set up Food Processing Training Centres on its own but assists State Government Organizatins, Educational and Training Institutions, NGOs, Cooperatives etc to do so. 101 Food Processing Training Centres have been assisted in Uttar Pradesh from inception till 29th February, 2008.

(a) and (c) Priority is given to the people belonging to SC/ST/OBC and women entrepreneurs in the selection for trainees in Food Processing Training Centres.

(d) The number of entrepreneurs trained/given hands on experience were 10100. Approximately 4040 persons belonging to SCs/STs/OBCs and women entrepreneurs have been trained.

Working of food processing units

†1710. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of total food processing units working in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of Government and private units among those, State-wise;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes to give any special focus on Orissa, in view of the increased production of vegetables in the State; and

(d) whether the Ministry is having any special concern to generate self employment through food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) and (b) As food processing industries are both in the organized and unorganized sectors, information on total number of food processing industries established in the country and details such as those which are in working condition, the number of units in the private/public sector, etc. are not centrally maintained in the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(c) The schemes of the Ministry are not State/region specific and is applicable to all the States in the country including the State of Orissa. For promotion and development of food processing industries in the country, the Ministry of Food Processing Industries has been implementing a Plan Scheme for Techonology upgradation/Modernization/Establishment of food processing units. Under the above scheme, Ministry of Food Processing Industries extends financial assistance to food processing units in the form of grant-in-aid @ 25% of the cost of plant and machinery and technical civil works subject to maximum of Rs. 50 lakhs in general areas or 33.33% subject to a maximum of Rs. 75 lakhs in difficult areas such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and North Eastern States, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Laskhadweep and ITDP Areas. The Ministry has approved 8 (eight) cases received from Orissa for financial assistance during the Tenth Plan period from 2002-03 to 2006-07 involving an amount of Rs. 244.47 lakhs comprising two solvent extraction plants in Kalahandi District, one rice milling unit in Sambhalpur District, two cashew processing units in Nabarangpur District, one fish processing unit in Balasore District and one each in Khurda and Bhubaneswar Districts for other products.

Government has formulated and implemented several Plan Schemes to provided financial assistance for the establishment and modernization of food processing units, creation of infrastructure, support for R&D, human resource development besides other promotional measures aimed at reducing wastages, enhancing value addition and increasing shelf life of agri-horticultural produce. MFPI has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial asstance for setting up of Mega Food Parks in the country during Eleventh Five Year Plan period and provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers' income in the agri-horticulture sector. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages. It also includes proposal for assistance to creating integrated cold chain infrastructure at different levels — farm level primary processing centre-cum-cold chain, collection/aggregation centers and Strategic Distribution Centers.

(d) In order to generate self employment in the food processing sector through skill development, the Ministry under its Scheme for Human Resource Development provides financial assistance to Central or State Government organization, educational and training institutions, NGOs and cooperatives for setting up of Food Processing Training Cente (FPTC) and organizing Entrepreneurship Development Programmes (EDP) for developm

of rural entrepreneurship and transfer of technology for processing of food products by utilizing locally grown raw materials and providng 'hands on' experience at such production cum training centers. The EDP is intended to enable the prospective entrepreneurs to undergo training to establish commercially viable enterprises in food and agri processing sector. In the Eleventh Plan, EDP and the FPTC Programmes will be implemented by integrating them into a synergic module in order to achieve better results.

Food processing and testing laboratories

1711. SHRI-N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has invited European Union countries and United States, to set up food testing laboratories jointly;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of MNCs that have come forward to set up laboratories; and

(d) the criteria being followed for providing grants to private companies, non-Government bodies or MNCs for setting up food processing and testing laboratories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY): (a) to (d) In order to up-grade the existing food testing infrastructure in the country, one of the thrust areas for discussions with various countries including United States (US) and European Union (EU) has been on the possibilities of benchmarking/certifying food testing laboratories in India by these countries, to facilitate the food processing industries/exporters of food products to adhere to required standards of importing countries, so that the consignments of food products are accepted by those countries.

MFPI had been providing financial assistance under its Tenth Plan Scheme to Central/ State Government organizations, IITs, Universities and private sectors organisations for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories in order to meet domestic as well as international standards of food products. Central/State Government organisations, IITs and Universities are eligible for grant-in-aid amounting to entire cost of the capital equipments required for setting up/up-gradation of laboratories. All other implementing agencies such as non-Government Bodies and private sector organisations are eligible for grant-in-aid limited to 33% of the cost of capital equipments required for setting up/up-gradation of such laboratories for general areas and 50% for difficult areas. The food testing facilities created with the financial assistance of MFPI are treated as common facilities for the use of food processing units in and around the area.

As per guidelines of this Ministry, complete proposals are to be recommended by the State Governments/Union Territories if they are received from private sector organisations or non-Government Bodies including MNCs for setting up/up-gradation of food testing laboratories. These proposals are examined and considered for approval of financial assistance, based on specific requirements such as quality parameters being tested, laboratory equipments required to test these parameters, testing requirements of the food processing industries and other stakeholders in and around the area and the capabilities of the applicant to manage the laboratory.